

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended to remove references to the “oval cross section.”
Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-26 have been cancelled, leaving claims 1-3, 7-10 and 14-16 pending.
Reconsideration of the prior art rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is directed to the embodiment shown in Applicants' Fig. 4 and specifies that the fastening element (20) is a plate-like projection defining a plane, and the predetermined breaking point (32) includes a hole having a longitudinal axis in the plane of the fastening element (20). The Examiner has taken the position that Matsuda's opening 15b in Fig. 7 has a longitudinal axis in the plane of the fastening element. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicant's claim language must be construed as it would be by one skilled in the art in view of Applicants' specification. One skilled in the art would understand that the longitudinal axis of Matsuda's opening 15b is perpendicular to the plane of the fastening element. This is clearly consistent with Applicants' specification and is consistent with the usual understanding of what is the longitudinal axis of an opening. One skilled in the art would say that the major axis, and not the longitudinal axis, of Matsuda's opening 15b is in the plane of the fastening element.

Therefore, Matsuda does not teach an opening with a longitudinal axis in the plane of the fastening element.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the above amendment and allowance of claims 1-3, 7-10 and 14-16 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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